

hope.”—Martin Luther King Jr. I didn’t quite get this at first, until I started to think about it. What King means is, there is always a little bit of hope, even if the problem is huge. To always cling to that piece of hope, and you will overcome the problem.

Some of the reasons my appreciation for my American heritage has increased is because of the Holocaust Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. I am deeply grateful for being able to go on this trip. I am so thankful for everyone that has done something for our country, not just the things listed above. Without these people and these events, we would not be here, and we would not be America. Thank you everyone.

WASHINGTON D.C. ESSAY

(By Chloe Atchley)

‘We the People of the United States . . .’ Thomas Jefferson wrote. I believe that as a citizen of the United States, we should have pride in our country. On my trip to Washington D.C., I grew a new appreciation and curiosity for my great Nation. Three places I was able to visit that helped my respect grow were the Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial.

The first place that helped me appreciate my Nation more was the Arlington National Cemetery. In my opinion, what shocked me the most was just how many graves there were. They lined the fields and area for miles. Every single one of those people served my country. Some of them died and sacrificed themselves for it. This cemetery did a wonderful job honoring those people, those heroes.

The second place that helped me appreciate my Nation more was the Vietnam’s Veteran Memorial. When I saw it, it was dark, and I couldn’t see how long it was. Walking along beside it, I was surprised to find that it kept on going on with me. There are 58,272 names on the wall today. It gave me pride to be American knowing that every last one of those people did their best to protect us and help others.

The last place that helped me appreciate my country more was the Jefferson Memorial. Out of everything I saw and visited, this was definitely one of my favorites. It was quiet, peaceful, and reflective, just like how I think Thomas Jefferson would have liked it. The sun was setting, and reflected on the walls of the little dome beautifully. It illuminated the excerpts from the Declaration of Independence that were engraved everywhere. It was a reminder of how we originally fought for our freedom, and of how my home began.

These are some of the places that increased my appreciation for my American heritage. This trip was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I hope everyone can stop to remember the sacrifices made and the struggles conquered through our history, and hold their head higher in remembrance that they are an American.

WASHINGTON, DC ESSAY

(By Callie Effler)

Very few places make one more proud to be an American than Washington, DC. I saw very many things in our nation’s capitol that I will remember for the rest of my life, but several stuck out that made me feel even more blessed than I already do to live in America. Three things and places in particular that made me especially appreciate my American heritage were the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, the National Archives, and the flag that inspired the Star Spangled Banner.

All of the monuments were breathtakingly beautiful, but the Vietnam Veterans’ Memo-

rial didn’t catch my eye for that reason—it was that it had so many names. 58,795 brave men and women were willing to pay the ultimate price to preserve the freedom and safety that so many of us take for granted today. These soldiers, nurses, and others who gave their lives so that we in the United States and those in other countries could be free are true heroes.

Another thing that made me prize my American heritage was the National Archives. There, we saw many documents including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It made me feel honored to have the opportunity to see the documents that shaped our past, which led to my present, and will lead to our future. In my opinion, these are some of the most important documents in the world. They led to changes in not only our country, but others as well.

Lastly, the flag that inspired our national anthem was the most amazing thing I saw in Washington. I couldn’t believe that such a massive flag could even be made! It’s colossal size was accomplished by a woman and several teenage girls. They made a flag—by hand—that survived battle and sparked a poem that is now one of the most recognizable tunes in history. Even then, Americans were making great things, both physical items and ideas.

The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, National Archives, and the Star-Spangled Banner are only three of the things I saw in Washington, DC, that made me proud of my American heritage. I think that everyone should have the opportunity to see the things from the past that shaped their future. I will never forget my 8th grade field trip, and will cherish all of the things that make our country great.

WASHINGTON D.C.

(By Madison Jacobs)

Washington D.C. is located between Virginia and Maryland in the District of Columbia. I believe that it is important to know about your country’s history in order to be able to do the basic things adults do. This experience was breathtaking and intriguing. I have learned several things while on this trip but the three places that taught me a lot was The National Archives, the Vietnam Memorial, and the Holocaust Museum.

My first place visited that I really enjoyed and learned a lot from was the National Archives. This acquaintance was both enticing and captivating. Seeing the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights I felt astonished and proud to live in this country. It is incredible to see that in 200 years these documents are still around and we go by them today. I especially enjoyed looking at all of the documents written so long ago.

The second place visited that I enjoyed and learned from was the Vietnam Memorial. It gave me great pride in my country but also at the same time it made me feel sad that all of these wonderful men; fathers, sons, husbands, and brothers lost their lives. This war lasted for 16 years. During these years 58,000 people died fighting so that we could all be free and giving their life for ours. The Vietnam Memorial was very humbling to me. My lasting impression is that I will always respect and honor those who fight and die for our country.

My third place I visited that I learned from was the Holocaust Museum. The Holocaust was a mass killing of Jews and other civilians. The factors that contributed to this were anti-Semitism and the rise of the Nazis. My most vivid thing that I will always remember is the room with all of the Jewish people’s shoes. Also the smell of the shoes from the leather was horrible. This will al-

ways stay in the back of my mind. The Holocaust Museum really touched me with the fact that millions of people died who were innocent and died for what they believed in.

The National Archives, The Vietnam Memorial, and The Holocaust Museum were the three places that we went to that touched me the most. These places have affected our nation’s history in many different ways and they represent what Americans are and what we stand for. I really enjoyed this trio and would like to go back one day in the near future.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CROATIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of the Croatian Cultural Garden, taking place on June 3, 2012.

The 254 acre piece of land that constitutes Rockefeller Park was donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. The Cleveland Croatian Cultural Garden is a two acre piece of land within Rockefeller Park. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens were founded in 1926 to create a memorial area for the diverse ethnic groups that shape the region, and to serve as a space for reflection on peace, cooperation and understanding. The Cultural Gardens are currently a collection of 26 gardens which include African-American, American Indian, British, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, and Slovenian gardens, among others.

The mission of the Croatian Cultural Garden is to dedicate a garden that celebrates the rich cultural achievements and contributions of the Croatian people and to endow an educational legacy for future generations. Groundbreaking on the Garden took place on April 30, 2011 with the support of the Garden’s benefactor, Ed Lozick.

The dedication of Phase I of the Croatian Cultural Garden will begin with a Holy Mass at St. Paul Croatian Church. Phase I includes the installation of “The Immigrant Mother” statue which represents Croatian mothers who emigrated to the U.S. The bronze statue was sculpted by Cleveland and Croatian-American, Joseph Turkaly. The granite base of the statue is inscribed with three Croatian symbols; the Croatian Homeland Shield (Grb), the original Croatian alphabet (Glagoljica) and the plerter design. The Gardens will also have a heart shaped flower garden representing the “Licitar Heart” as well as three benches carved from stone from the island of Brac.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the dedication of the Croatian Cultural Garden.

## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under